

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 SP-02 PM-03

L-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-10 EB-03 MC-01 /054 W

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R 041323Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5280

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0617

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH REACTION TO AIRBORNE WARNING AND
CONTROL SYSTEMS (AWACS)

SUMMARY: SENIOR DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT US
EFFORTS TO PUSH AWACS AT THIS TIME COULD IMPERIL THE SALE
OF THE F-16/AIR COMBAT FIGHTER (ACF). END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING A DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE CHIEF OF THE DANISH AIR FORCE, THE AIR ATTACHE DISCUSSED THE F-16 PROGRAM WITH P.V. CHRISTIANSEN, HEAD OF THE SECOND OFFICE AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THE AIR ATTACHE ASKED IF THE SUBJECT OF AWACS HAD ARISEN DURING THE RECENTTRIP TO THE UNITED STATES BY CHRISTIANSEN AND COL. FAABERG OF THE AIR FORCE, THE KEY DANISH PROJECT OFFICER ON THE FOUR-NATION STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE ACF PROGRAM.

2. CHRISTIANSEN SAID NO, BUT CONTINUED THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT THE US WAS MAKING A MISTAKE BY TRYING TO SELL AWACS AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS PUSHING THE F-16. IN DENMARK, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SAME PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE AS MUCH WORK AS THEY CAN HANDLE WITH THE ACF PROGRAM WOULD ALSO BE THOSE INVOLVED WITH AWACS. A SECOND AND MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM IS THAT PERCEIVED PRESSURE BY THE US TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PURCHASE OF AWACS COULD CAUSE AN ADVERSE REACTION IN PARLIAMENT AND WITH THE DANISH PUBLIC WHICH COULD MITIGATE AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF THE ACF. DOUBT ALREADY EXISTS AS TO DENMARK'S ABILITY TO PAY FOR THE ACF. THE APPEARANCE AT MORE OR LESS THE SAME TIME OF ANOTHER EXPENSIVE PIECE OF MILITARY HARDWARE FOR SALE BY THE US COULD TIP THE BALANCE AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF EITHER THE AWACS OR THE ACF.

3. READ ADMIRAL RODHOLM, DEFENSE STAFF DEPUTY FOR MATERIAL, THEN ENTERED THE CONSERVATION BY SAYING THAT DENMARK CANNOT AFFORD AWACS, HAS NO REAL REQUIREMENT FOR IT, AND THAT THE US SHOULD NOT TRY TO SELL THE PROGRAM TO THE DANES. IN AGREEING WITH RODHOLM, CHRIESTIANSEN REITERATED THAT DENMARK CANNOT AFFORD BOTH PROGRAMS. RODHOLM OBSERVED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THE PRIMARY REASON THAT THE US WAS PUSHING AWACS IN EUROPE WAS TO REDUCE THE COST OF THE AIRCRAFT THE US WANTED TO PURCHASE FOR NORTH AMERICAN DEFENSE.

4. COMMENT: THESE EXPRESSIONS SQUARE WITH SIMILAR ONES MADE BY OTHER DANISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS TO MAAG CONTACTS. THERE IS STRONG SUPPORT IN THE DANISH GOVT AT THIS TIME FOR THE F-16 AND A FAIR AMOUNT OF CONFIDENCE
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THAT THE DANES WILL BUY IT. WE BELIEVE DANISH CONCERN OVER THE EFFECTS OF AWACS IS SERIOUS AND RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDER DELAYING THE AWACS SALES PROGRAM AT LEAST AS FAR AS DENMARK IS CONCERNED UNTIL A DECISION IS MADE HERE ON THE F-16 PURCHASE.
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